



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Volume 41, No. 9

Yankee Engineer

May 2006

New England Under Water

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Yankee Voices

Janet Brayden
Logistics



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On the Cover...

Flood waters flow over the Spicket River Falls Dam in Methuen, Mass. (Photo by Erik Matthews)

Letter of Appreciation

This letter is to thank you and your staff for your assistance and cooperation in designating three dredged material disposal sites to serve the central and western Long Island Sound and Rhode Island regions. Although EPA is the agency authorized by the Ocean Dumping Act to designate dredged material disposal sites, we could not have done it without the financial support and excellent technical assistance provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the work of Mark Habel, the project manager for the two Long Island Sound disposal site designations; Sue Holtham, who was instrumental in preparing the Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement; and Mike Keegan, the project manager for the Rhode Island disposal site designation. As you know, Mark, Sue and Mike were part of an interagency team that recently received a Silver Medal for Superior Service from EPA Administrator Steve Johnson.

While the work of Mark, Sue and Mike was central to the successful completion of the site designations, EPA also would like to acknowledge the contributions of Cathy Rogers, who provided technical support on the Rhode Island Environmental Impact Statement, and the entire public affairs staff, who oversaw the numerous public hearings and meetings that were conducted throughout the process. Of course, there were many others who played a role in these projects, and it goes without saying that completing these site designations would not have been possible without the close cooperation between our two agencies.

Congratulations to your staff for their outstanding contributions to the Long Island Sound and Rhode Island dredged material disposal site designations. We look forward to working with you to build on this success as we move forward with a Long Island Sound Regional Dredging Team and Dredged Material Management Plan.

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator
EPA, Region 1

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm>

District CommanderCol. Curtis L. Thalken
Chief, Public AffairsLarry B. Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:

Safety should be a priority this summer

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken
District Commander



The onslaught of summer increases activity not only on our job sites, but also outdoor activities in our personal lives. Therefore I would like to spend a few moments this month talking about summer safety, both at work and at play.

First, a review of the District's safety record over the past six months reveals three trends in employee accidents: An increased number of slips and trips (surprisingly not attributable to winter weather conditions); Back injuries from improper lifting, and; Cuts from the improper handling of a knife. Thankfully, none of the injuries were serious, but many times the difference between events resulting in a "small" or "large" accident is nearly imperceptible.

Second, as the weather improves our outdoor activity increases as well. Both on the job and off the potential for injuries increase.

The "construction season" in New England has a limited window for outside work and we rush to accomplish as much as we can during this time. But in our haste we cannot cut corners that increase our risk. Many accidents occur when

we try to shave a little time off a project by taking a shortcut. Invariably this leads to accidents that actually lengthen the time needed.

A disciplined approach to safety will ultimately lead to a faster and safer end result. Also, increased outdoor work leads to increased encounters with the flora and fauna and these encounters can have their own unintended consequences.

Poison Ivy, mosquitoes, ticks, skunks, raccoons, moose and even bears, the list of potential encounters and their consequences is endless.

Be aware of your surroundings and take the necessary precautions. Nothing spoils an evening walk faster than a surprise encounter with a skunk. Just ask my dog.

Likewise, take the time to protect yourself from the sun. Protect your skin and your eyes both for the short term and the long term. You'll be healthier for it. Stay hydrated as well. It's easy to forget while you're working outside or hard at play, but take the time to keep your fluid levels up. While we're on the subject of water, remember -- alcohol and the lake don't mix.

Thanks for all you do every day to make the New England District a great place to work. Take the time to keep yourself, your family and your friends safe so we can continue to enjoy each others company and friendship.

Essays!

District Commander serves as keynote speaker at environmental conference in Boston

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, served as the keynote speaker at the EnviroExpo and Land Development Expo in Boston May 3.

Col. Thalken's presentation provided a regional perspective focused on real life engineering solutions that address modern problems in the urban environment such as maintaining harbors, ports, and federal navigation while understanding controversial dredging and disposal issues. Among the topics that the Commander discussed were regional flood damage reduction by the New England District, and the flood damage prevention system in New England. This system consists of 31

dams, 100 local protection projects, and two hurricane barriers. The system also incorporates reservoir technology and satellite data collection using 96 platforms.

This is the first year that the two expos have combined. For the past 18 years, professionals in construction, industry and government responsible for environmental cleanup, compliance, remediation, and quality have attended the EnviroExpo to learn about the latest information in environmental management and to network with professional colleagues.

This year marks the New England District's 15th year of participation at the EnviroExpo.



Photos by Bill Mullen

Despite pounding floodwaters, the Upper Mystic Lakes Dam in Medford, Mass., remained intact.

District provides assistance during severe flooding event

Seven days of heavy rains and flooding besieged the New England region in mid-May causing major road, school and business closures. Many rivers such as the Merrimack, Contoocook, Piscataquog, Spicket, Powwow, Saugus, Concord, Newfound and Mousam went above flood stage, sending millions of gallons of water into residents' basements and causing thousands to evacuate their homes.

The heavy flooding overwhelmed many sewer systems, leading to overflows of raw sewage in flood waters and contaminating drinking water. The governors of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine have declared their states disaster areas and sought the help of the federal government. When they called the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers New England District answered.

"During periods of concern, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England work with federal, state, and local agencies with one goal to minimize impact from weather events and protect the public's health and safety," said Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander.

The New England District's Emergency Operations Center went to 24 hour operation beginning May 13, and sent a representative to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency bunker in Framingham, Mass., to offer assistance.

The District also had three personnel on standby to report to FEMA if they were requested. In addition, the District provided 125,000 sandbags to

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and 265,000 sandbags to the state of New Hampshire to help keep back the floodwaters.

Engineers went out into the field to inspect dams and other structures and provide suggestions on how to keep them sound.

The Spicket Falls Dam in Methuen, Mass., received a great deal of media attention due to fears that it would breach and send a four-foot wall of water crashing through Methuen and Amesbury. The New England District provided sandbags and some technical assistance at the dam. Although the 150-year old structure lost a footbridge, it held through the worst of the flooding.

District engineers also inspected and gave technical advice about the Saugus River Dam at Reedy Meadow

Pond in Lynn, Mass. Sandbags stopped the flow over the embankments. Sandbags were also placed across a shallow dip in the ground elevation which stopped the water flow and avoided any erosion behind the east retaining wall.

The New England District kept an eye on its own dams as the waters began to rise. Although most did not exceed 50 percent of their flood storage, all Corps dams were carefully watched and two experienced significant impoundments during the flooding.

Blackwater Dam and Franklin Falls Dam in New Hampshire reached 82 percent full and 50 percent full, respectively and the Blackwater Dam rose to 3.2 feet below its spillway crest.

The Franklin Falls and Blackwater Dam project personnel teams staffed the structures 24 hours a day and made minimum controlled releases until downstream rivers reached non-damaging levels.

Hopkinton-Everett Dams had a combined storage of 61 percent during the height of the flooding. The project personnel at both dams initiated minimum controlled releases until the river levels were stable. Because of the diligence of the project personnel teams at all of these dams, none of these flood control projects were ever in any danger of reaching spillway discharge.

The New England District has designed a flood system of flood damage prevention projects which includes 35 flood control dams, 100 local protection projects, and five hurricane barriers in New England.

A total of 31 of 35 reservoir projects, and two of five hurricane barriers are operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, while remaining projects are operated and maintained by local interests.

"The Corps of Engineers was there for New England during the floods of 2006 and we will be there when the next weather situation occurs," said Col. Thalken.



An abandoned car is nearly submerged on Cross St., near the Aberjona River in Winchester, Mass.



Students from Aberjona High School in Winchester, Mass., find another mode of transportation during the flooding.



Water leaves this two car garage underwater at this home near Aberjona High School in Winchester, Mass.



Volunteers planted 6,500 saltmarsh plants at Allin's Cove.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Planting event held at Allin's Cove Wetland Restoration Project

Approximately 50 volunteers arrived at the New England District's Allin's Cove Wetland Restoration Project in Barrington, R.I., on May 6 to place 6,500 salt marsh plants on the site to jump start the salt marsh vegetation process.

In 1959, dredged material from the Bullocks Cove navigation improvement

project was placed at the mouth of the cove. The material increased the elevation above the intertidal range. The change resulted in conditions suitable for growth of an invasive species called *Phragmites australis*, or "common reed," which took over the area and destroyed the salt marsh.

The New England District has al-

ready restored portions of the salt marsh. The project will also realign the inlet channel to the south and provide for a north and south sand spit with sand excavated at the site.

The project is being cost-shared between the federal (75 percent) and the nonfederal (25 percent) project sponsors.



Volunteers plant shrubs on the upland banks of Allin's Cove.



Participants plant salt marsh plants in the Allin's Cove salt marsh.



Photo by C.J. Allen

Volunteers construct a footbridge during Westville Lake's Earth Day celebration.



Photo by Michelle Dwyer

West Thompson Lake volunteers split wood for the project's campground facilities.

Three New England District facilities hold Earth Day celebrations

Three New England District flood control projects celebrated Earth Day with park cleanups and other environmental projects. The Cape Cod Canal in Buzzard's Bay, Mass., and Westville Lake in Southbridge, Mass., both held events on April 22. West Thompson Lake in Thompson, Conn., held its celebration April 29.

The Cape Cod Canal registered volunteers for their annual Cape Cod Canal Clean Up just outside the Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center. AmeriCorps-Cape Cod coordinated the event with the Canal. Canal personnel provided gloves, trash bags, litter sticks and other equipment to volunteers. In just about three hours enough trash was collected to fill three pickup trucks. Representatives from the federal environmental program AmeriCorps solicited food donations from businesses for the volunteers. WCOD 106.1 FM in Hyannis provided music for the event.

Earth Day 2006 marked Westville Dam's sixth celebration of the event. Employees of Westville partnered with two town organizations -- the Southbridge Trail Committee and the Grand Trunk Trail Blazers -- to oversee several projects

to improve the local trail system. The October 2005 floods that affected Westville Park left portions of the Westville Community Trail in need of repair. In addition to repairing the Community Trail, approximately 30 volunteers completed other projects that included picking up approximately 250 pounds of flood and winter debris, brush trimming, spreading stone dust on the trail and spreading loam and seeding trail shoulders. Local Boy Scouts made accessibility improvements to the Heritage Trail Extension as well as built a 25-foot wooded bridge over a storm water flowage ditch to improve the West Street School loop trail behind the West Street School. Lunch for the volunteers was provided by local restaurants.

West Thompson's 14th annual Earth Day celebration resulted in 118 volunteers completing six large projects and collecting 15 bags of trash. As Westville Dam suffered flood damage to some of its trails, one of West Thompson's large walking bridges suffered major damage. Boy Scouts removed, replaced and painted the broken railings on the bridge, and cut back and cleaned up the surrounding trails. Other Boy Scouts moved a smaller bridge that was displaced by the flooding back to its original position.

Work by other volunteers included trail maintenance; trash pick up; removing debris from the rip rap and area in front of the dam; installing the dock at the boat ramp, installing two new grills, and trash pick up along the shoreline of the lake; splitting five dump truck-loads of firewood for the campground; and cutting brush along the roads. West Thompson Lake previously held a volunteer cleanup day on April 8. Despite the pouring rain, approximately 30 people arrived to help pick up trash.



Photo by Abigail Clark

Earth Day celebration volunteers walk along the Cape Cod Canal in search of garbage.

Daughters, sons come to work and learn about the Corps of Engineers New England District

by Sally Rigione
Public Affairs Office

How do kids today decide what they want to be when they grow up? One way is to expose them to various professions at an early age. Thanks to the District's Federal Woman's Program (FWP) and the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) office children found out about some of the professions at the New England District. On April 21, the FWP hosted a day-long Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work day. This was a great way to end the school vacation week in Massachusetts. Volunteers from throughout the organization assisted Heather Sullivan, FWP program manager, to make the day memorable for the children. Over 30 girls and boys (ages 7 through 13) who had relatives at the District participated.

The day began with all the kids receiving photo ID name badges from the security office.

Badges helped the security team know that these boys and girls were part of the group and helped the volunteers learn their names quicker. After welcoming remarks, an icebreaker was held since most kids didn't know each other. They were broken randomly into three groups where they each got to learn about the other 10 or so kids at the table. They also played a game where they had to match the kids up with what was written down on a sheet of paper.

As they left the icebreaker, friendships were starting to form. The group was split in half and each group spent time at two different activities, swapping halfway through the morning. They learned about bridge engineering where the kids got a chance to build their own structures out of paper to see how strong a structure could be. John Kedzierski, Engineering/Planning, explained the difference between suspension, girder, truss and arch bridges. Piers, beams and abutments were discussed and the importance of a good

foundation for a bridge. Allison McInerney created the tallest and sturdiest structure; it was taller than her, even when she stood on a chair! The structure held 25 books of various sizes before it toppled down.

Learning about how levees are built, when they are needed and how they protect gave the children a chance to play. Each pair of kids was given a square plastic container, stones, sand, clay, two plastic bags and a few instructions. They were then told to build a levee anyway they chose. Richalie Griffith, Engineering/Planning, one of the coordinators for the exercise, made 15 quarts of clay material the

night before out of flour, salt, water, oil and cream of tarter. When all the levees were built, Hurricane Richie came rolling through depositing water onto one side of each of the levees. Four of them held the longest. Afterward, Griffith, stated, "A good clay core is the key. A little seepage can come through, and is expected. If it doesn't seep, there will be too much pressure behind the levee and



Samantha Mirabella, Park Ranger, Cape Cod Canal, lets a child touch a horseshoe crab from the Canal Touch Tank.

it could fail."

Lunchtime brought both groups back together in the cafeteria for pizza and fellowship. Kids randomly chose whom to sit with and chat with as they all munched on pizza, snacks, drinks and cookies. Laughter was heard quite a bit.

All the kids learned about chromatography, which is a process used to separate, detect or purify different substances. Designs were varied as each child's artistic talents took off! As they finished, all shirts were hung over a clothesline setup in the hallway for the ink to dry.

Marine Biology and Wetlands were covered in three parts. Live turtles had been brought in; a vernal pool wetlands demonstration in a second area and a touch tank with live animals was set up. Two rangers from the Cape Cod Canal office drove up with a tank and the animals that morning. During Park Ranger Samantha Mirabella's discussion with the children, she explained how we all have to protect plants



Morgan Taylor holds up the T-shirt she created during the chromatography session.

and animals inside and out of the water. She shared a lot of information on each of the animals – and allowed the children to hold and pass them around the group. “When you pick up a live lobster keep your hands away from their claws and if you hold them upside down it mellows them out...one difference between a male and a female lobster is their tale...if a claw falls off, the lobster will regenerate a new one.”

Three types of clams were brought in and Mirabella gave a quick cooking lesson on their uses: Surf clams are used in chowders; Quahog clams are those you see stuffed; and steamers (a.k.a. soft shell crabs) long to be hanging out. All the clams burrow into the sand with their foot. It may look like a tongue to people, but it is a foot.

As a hermit crab was being passed around, Mirabella explained how it was different than other crabs. They don’t have their own shells but find an empty shell and back into it with their butt. One kid’s response was, “so they’re on vacation, the shell is like a rental.” Sea star, horseshoe crab, moon snail, sea urchin, spider crab were passed around. An American eel was pointed out in the water. All the animals were returned to the Cape Cod Canal at the end of the day. Fun facts about the horseshoe crab were also learned. They have been around since the dinosaurs walked the earth, so they are like a living fossil. They move along the sea bottom feeding on worms, clams and anything edible including dead animals. They may also scrape off algae. “A horseshoe crab does not have huge claws like other crabs. It has no jaw; it has to grind down its food with the rough spiny areas near the base of its walking legs. The first pair of legs are tiny with small pincers which pick up and pass tidbits into its four pairs of ‘food processing’ legs. Walking movements grinds up the food and the bits flow into the mouth, which is between the second pair of legs and conveniently faces backwards,” explained Mirabella. These crabs are also very helpful in



Allison McInerney (center) piles books on to her tower while John Kedzierski and Chelsea Thalken watch.

testing medicine. For example – some of their blood is used to test for insulin for diabetes to ensure that medication is safe to use.

As the day wrapped up, the kids were asked what they liked best about the day. Chelsea Thalken said, “The thing I liked most today was the touch tank. I liked seeing the different animals. I also liked making the t-shirt.”

Ben Walsh said, “Learning about bridges, building structures out of straws and paperclips and supporting books with paper.”

His brother Brian Walsh said, “I liked the bridges and the touch tank especially the moon snail. It was covered in slime and it got all over my hand.”

Tyler Lefebvre said, “The touch tank, the snail was slimy.”

The Corps committee members stood at the doorway and smiled as the relatives came back to the cafeteria to retrieve the children. Before leaving, three of the girls hugged as they exchanged phone numbers. Two boys shook hands saying, “I’ll stay in touch, man.”



Photos by Brian Murphy.

Children build levees to hold back water in the container.

Leslie Jacobs retires with 28 years of federal service



Photos by John McDowell

Leslie Jacobs, a Construction Representative at the North Central Resident Office, retired from the Corps of Engineers with 28 years of service. Approximately 35 friends, co-workers and family members gathered at the Resident Office at Devens, Mass., on April 28 to celebrate his distinguished career.

As guests dined on marinated venison steaks, hot sausages, salads, and lots of desserts, Jim Morocco served as Master of Ceremonies for the event and began the presentations by introducing retiree John McDowell. Other speakers included Jim Lewis, Otter Brook Lake, who presented Jacobs with some maple syrup harvested at Otter Brook and Christine Johnson-Battista, North Central Resident Office, who presented Jacobs' wife, Joyce, with a potted plant in appreciation for supporting her husband over the years.

The new retiree and his wife teach bow use as well as teach urbanites how to camp and hunt. In that vein, Jacobs received a Nerf Bow and Arrow set, "For when he gets older so he won't hurt anyone," said Morocco.

Other gifts that Jacobs received were gift certificates and hunting shirts.

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, presented Jacobs with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, a Bunker Hill plaque, a

Commander's Coin, and his retirement certificate.

Jacobs began his federal career on Aug. 16, 1978. Prior to joining the Corps, Jacobs worked as a carpenter and an estimator at the former Fort Devens when the installation was active. Throughout his career Jacobs has worked on numerous, high profile projects for the District. These projects include, but are not limited to the current border crossing stations in Maine, the national award winning superfund site at Corinna, Maine, the national award winning removal of Smelt Hill Dam in Falmouth, Maine, construction of the Silresim treatment plant in Lowell, Mass., and numerous reserve centers. According to the Commander's Award citation, during the time he worked for the Corps, "he always held contractors to a high quality standard by enforcing the three-phase inspection method of quality control while maintaining a high degree of safety at the project site."

In addition to his federal service at the former Fort Devens and with the Corps of Engineers, Jacobs is a Vietnam Veteran, serving two tours during his eight years in the U.S. Army.

After a cross country trip to visit relatives, Jacobs and his wife, who love hunting and fishing, plan on building a camp in rural Pennsylvania and will split their time there and in New England.



(above left) Col. Curtis Thalken presents Leslie Jacobs with his retirement certificate. (above) Jim Lewis gives Jacobs maple syrup made from the sap of trees at Otter Brook Dam.



Ceila and Chiway Hsiung enjoy themselves at the retirement luncheon.



George Norton, Chiway Hsiung, and Thomas Ayau retired with over 90 years of federal service.

Three of Engineering/Planning's finest retire with over 90 years of federal service

Employees at the New England District do things as a team. Thomas Ayau, Chiway Hsiung and George Norton took the concept to the next level when they all decided to retire together.

Friends and family members celebrated the careers of the three men during a retirement party held in the Concord Park Theatre and Cafeteria on April 26. Norton, Hsiung and Ayau retired with over 90 years of service. Billed as the "Three Amigos" retirement luncheon, over 120 people attended the event. David Descoteaux served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Speakers included Tony Mackos, Joe Colucci, Phil Becker, Bob Maki and Greg Buteau. Each man was presented with a gift certificate to Circuit City, so they could buy "toys."

Tony Mackos assisted Col. Curtis Thalken, District Commander, with the official retirement portion of the celebration which included retirement certificates and pins.

Mackos also presented the three retirees Bunker Hill plaques.

Family members who attended the luncheon were Hsiung's wife Ceila Hsiung; Norton's mother, Virginia Norton, his daughter Lindsay Norton; and Norton's daughter and son-in-law, Hillary and Joe Lacirignola. The female family members of the retirees all received a bouquet of flowers for the support they gave over the years.

Retirees who attended were Phil and Betty Becker, Bill Coleman, Fred Hardy, Dave Hebert, Peter Huie, Roger Jahola, Andy Lamborghini, Linda Lynch, Bob Maki and Dick Reardon.

Norton, who has 34 years of service plans to go fishing. Hsiung, who retired with 22 years of service, plans on doing some landscaping at home. Ayau, who had the most service of 36 years is planning a trip to China.

Dave Friedt and Frank Turner, with the assistance from Francis Fung and Pam Turner, organized the event.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Lynne Bleakney congratulates Tom Ayau on his retirement.



George Norton (center) poses with some of his family members at the retirement luncheon.

Division commander promoted to Major General

Brig. Gen. William T. (Bill) Grisoli, Commander of the North Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was promoted to Major General by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers, April 24.

Lt. Gen. Strock, who leads the agency, said "The Army recognized that Bill (Grisoli) is a great leader. He was selected by a very high level of the Army to wear these two stars and is being promoted because he does every job to the best of his ability."

The orders promoting Brig. Gen. Grisoli to Major General stated, "The President of the United States has reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities of Brigadier General William T. Grisoli. In view of these qualities and his demonstrated potential for increased responsibility, he is therefore authorized to wear the uniform and insignia of a Major General effective 24 April 2006." The promotion took place at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn.

Following the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Grisoli called the day "humbling" because "it really is an honor to be a general officer in the Corps of Engineers and the United States Army."

Maj. Gen. Grisoli assumed command of the North Atlantic Division on Aug. 1, 2005. The Division is one of eight Corps of Engineers regions providing engineering and construction

services to the nation in the Northeast and 51 other countries.

As Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Grisoli oversees the planning, design and construction of projects to support the military, protect America's water resources, and restore and enhance the environment within a 180,000 square mile area along the Atlantic Coast, including 13 states from Maine to Virginia and the District of Columbia.

He is also responsible for a variety of Division engineering and construction activities for international, federal, state and local governments and agencies in the United States and overseas.

Maj. Gen. Grisoli was born in New York City and raised in Bayport, Long Island. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Virginia. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., and was commissioned in 1976.

He received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and a second master's degree in Natural Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

(Division photo and press release)



Maj. Gen. Ann Harrell (USAF) and Maj. Gen. Grisoli's mother, Jeanette Grisoli, pin two stars on his uniform.

Founder's Day: What it is all about and why you should attend the 2006 celebration on June 23

by Sally Rigione
Public Affairs Office

Have you wondered why Founder's Day is called that? Or why is it celebrated in June? The history of the United States Army engineers can be traced back to June 16, 1775, when the Continental Congress organized an army with a chief engineer and two assistants. The fortification of Breed's Hill, a lower elevation nearer and more threatening to Boston occurred in less than eleven hours. When the British attacked, they took the hill on a third charge, when the patriots ran out of powder. The British occupied Bunker Hill (which overlooked Breed's Hill) until their departure on March 17, 1776.

Colonel Richard Gridley became General George Washington's first chief engineer; however, it was not until 1779 that Congress created a separate Corps of Engineers. Army engineers, including several French officers, were instrumental in some of the hard-fought battles of the Revolutionary War including the battle at Breed's Hill (later known in the history books as the battle of Bunker Hill). In 1794, Congress organized a Corps of Artillerists and Engineers but it was not until 1802 that it reestablished a separate Corps of Engineers. The Corps' continuous existence dates from 1802.

This year we'll be celebrating our 231st year on June 23rd at Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Mass. The official ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m., and activities are planned throughout the day. Start organizing your horseshoe, volleyball and basketball teams.

People arriving early are free to walk and explore the park and surrounding area. Rangers will present a Water Safety Program on the beach at 9:30 a.m. and an animal "touch table" from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Afternoon activities include a tour of the Buffumville Dam and a nature walk.

Events running all day include: face painting, swimming, fishing (don't forget your fishing license), disc golf, horseshoes, volleyball, basketball and boating. If you own your own boat, you can bring it (no size/power limitations) or use one of the Corps canoes.

Food is being catered by Mr. Jack's Catering Service. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers (please request at time of ticket purchase), potato, macaroni and garden salads. Price is \$11 for adults and children. Tickets must be purchased by

June 16th. If you prefer, you can bring your own picnic lunch, but please remember that the park is a "pack in/take your trash out."

Cost is \$1 per person for those not getting the catered lunch. This nominal fee is to assist with covering the cost of the Founder's Day activities for everyone.

To sign up and purchase tickets, please see Karen Adams, Judy Antonellis, Frank Delgiudice, Robert Desista, Bob Govero, Amal Guirguis, Jamie Kordack, Ruth Ladd, Santos Lara, Peg Lorenzo, Susan Mehigan, Marcos Paiva, Greg Penta, Will Pumyea, Rachael Raposa, Sally Rigione,

Susan Rodkey or Bob Russo. Retirees can contact Susan Mehigan at 978-318-8057 or by e-mail at susan.j.mehigan@usace.army.mil.

Directions from various key locations are listed below:

From Concord Park: Take Route 128 South (also known as Route 95 South) to the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) West (exit 23/24). Take Exit 10 to Interstate 395. From Interstate 395, take Exit 4B, Oxford center. Continue straight for 3 miles to Buffumville Park (on your right).

From Devens: Take Route 495 South to Exit 25, Route 290 West. Stay on Route 290 which turns into Route 395. From Interstate 395, take Exit 4B, Oxford center. Continue straight for 3 miles to Buffumville Park (on your right).

From Chicopee: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) East to the Sturbridge Exit 9, Route 20 East. Follow Route 20 to Route 31 South in Charlton follow the signs to Buffumville Lake.

From Nashua, N.H.: Take Route 3 South to Interstate 495 South. Take exit 25, Interstate 290 West. Stay on Route 290 which turns into Route 395. From Interstate 395, take Exit 4B, Oxford center. Continue straight for 3 miles to Buffumville Park (on your right).

There will be park hosts to greet you as you enter Buffumville Park. Please identify yourself as being a member of the Corps and attending the Founder's Day celebration. If not, the hosts will ask you to pay a recreational user fee to enter the park which is \$1 per person (over 12 years old), up to \$4 per vehicle to use the swimming area.

As a reminder the park will be open to the public with all their daily use rules in place including "no alcohol allowed in our park or boat ramp areas." Don't forget to bring your suntan lotion and bug spray.



Beautiful Buffumville Lake in Charlton, Mass.

Congratulations

...to **Jason Robinson**, West Thompson Lake/Mansfield Hollow Lake (Construction/Operations), and his wife, **Laura**, on the birth of their son, **Dennis Scott Robinson**, on May 15.

...to **Bob Essex**, on the birth of his third daughter, **Ivabella Carrie Essex**, on May 25.

Sympathy

... to **Ralph Turner**, Construction-Operations Division on the passing of his mother-in-law, **Dora Ruel**, on May 9.

... to the family of Finance and Accounting retiree **Ruth Cronin** who passed away May 3.

... to **James Bacon**, retiree, Birch Hill Dam, on the passing of his father, **Charles Bacon**, May 7.

... to the family of Planning retiree **Donald Martin** who passed away May 18.

Correction

It was reported in the March edition of the Yankee Engineer that Ervin "Mal" Pickering retired from the New England District with 20 years of service.

Pickering, who retired Dec. 27, 1980, actually had 30 years of service.

Words worth repeating

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it's the only thing."

- **Albert Schweitzer**

New England federal recreation areas are open for the season

by **Timothy Dugan**
Public Affairs

Recreation areas at the 31 federal flood control reservoirs in New England operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened to the public in mid-May 2006.

"Most areas offer a wide range of recreational opportunities, including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting, while a few also provide facilities for overnight camping," said Richard C. Carlson, Chief of Construction/Operations.

Fishing is permitted at all federal flood control reservoirs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The only requirement to fish the lakes is a state license and adherence to state regulations. Trout, bass, pickerel, hornpout and perch inhabit most reservoirs, while a few areas have their

own specialties. Many of the areas are stocked by state fish and game agencies to provide some of the finest fishing in the region.

Developed facilities, including beaches, picnic areas, athletic fields and campgrounds are available at a number of locations. Many are open to individuals or small groups free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. A nominal fee is charged to reserve covered picnic shelters. Large groups may be required to obtain user permits for a small fee.

For a brochure about recreational opportunities, including directions to each site, write to the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Public Affairs Office, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. For more information about Corps recreation and activities check the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreation/recreation.htm>

Corps emphasizes water safety at federal recreation areas through summer months

As warmer weather approaches and more people plan to recreate near or in the water this July 4th weekend and through the summer months, now is the time to think water safety.

Drowning is the nation's second leading cause of accidental death for children. Yet, it is possible -- just by wearing a life jacket or taking other precautions-- to reduce drowning deaths. An estimated 70 percent of reported boating fatalities in 2004 occurred on boats where the operator had not received safety instruction, and of those victims who drowned, nearly 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

The President signed a proclamation May 12, making May 20-26 National Safe Boating Week. He urged all Americans to learn more about safe boating practices and always engage in proper and responsible conduct while on the water. He also noted the 35th anni-

versary of the Federal Boat Safety Act, which has helped reduce the number of recreational boating deaths in our country.

"By taking simple precautions such as wearing a life jacket, taking a boating safety course, getting a Vessel Safety Check, and never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, we can continue to save lives and reduce the number of accidents and injuries that occur each year," the proclamation states.

National Safe Boating Week is an annual nationwide event that precedes Memorial Day weekend and is dedicated to raising the awareness of boating safety. The campaign's theme, "Wear It!" is designed to emphasize the importance of each boater wearing a life jacket.

(USACE Headquarters News Release)



District Color Guard, Historian march in Patriot's Day parade

The New England District Ranger Color Guard represented the New England District when it participated in the annual parade commemorating Patriot's Day in Concord, Mass., April 17. The parade celebrated the 231st anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War.

New England District Historian, Timothy Hays, also participated in the event. Donning his Lincoln Minuteman uniform of colonial military dress, he marched with the rest of his company in the three mile event.

The Corps of Engineers formed in Charlestown, Mass., during the Battle of Bunker Hill just a few months after the beginning of the Revolutionary War, which started in Lexington, Mass. This marks the New England District's 7th year participating in Patriot's Day celebration events. Past participation has included not only the parade, but also the Dawn Salute and the Meriam's Corner Exercises. The New England District Ranger Color Guard members who participated this year include Joe Faloretti, Jamie Kordack, Merlon Bassett, Rick Magee, Bob Hanacek and alternate Mike Curran.



Photos by C.J. Allen

(Top) The New England District Ranger Color Guard stand at attention in front of the historical Minuteman Statue in Concord, Mass., during a pause in the Patriot's Day parade. (Above) Tim Hays, dressed as a Lincoln Minuteman, marches with his unit in the parade.

Dredging up the past . . .



Photo by C.J. Allen

John Ciardi President of Westcott Construction Corp, Congressman, Richard Neal, General Martin Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Brian Osterndorf, New England District Commander, and Congressman John Olver break ground to celebrate the beginning of construction of the new Air Control Tower at the Westover Air Reserve Base in this June 19, 2000 photo.

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

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